

DETAILED ACTION

Note: The following office action is in response to a request for a complete office action.

The office action mailed 10/2/07 inadvertently omitted claim 4 and 5.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8, and 10-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizuno et al. USPN 5876325. Mizuno discloses an operation input device having a first movement detection unit for detecting the position and/or attitude of a first operation input unit; and a second movement detection unit connected to the first movement detection unit, for detecting the position and attitude of a second operation input unit (Abstract, Figure 1, col. 4, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 60-67; col. 9, lines 14-17 and 33-55). The device further comprises an armrest unit, P and Q and movement detection units 16, 17 for detecting the position and attitude of an operation input unit with a part corresponding to the wrist of the operator. The armrest unit is seen in Figure 1 near the area where the operator rest his hand (near letter Q). This area corresponds to the wrist of the operator. The control lever is considered where the joints allow the arm to be repositioned. Mizuno discloses instruments 156 and 157 having two or more degrees of freedom (col. 18, lines 49-61). Mizuno does not specifically disclose at least three

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degrees of freedom and six degrees of freedom as claimed. However, because Mizuno discloses at least two degrees of freedom or more and in some components, such as the position sensors, six degrees of freedom (col. 25, lines 30-47), it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the first detection unit with the claimed degrees of freedom and the second detection unit with the claimed degrees of freedom, since where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation, *In re Aller et al.* 105 USPQ 233.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacqueline F. Stephens whose telephone number is (571) 272-4937. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tanya Zalukaeva can be reached on (571) 272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jacqueline F Stephens/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3761

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